

Message Text

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52

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 /117 W
----- 124028

R 200920 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8867

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SREF, XCPS, BG, IN, PK

SUBJECT: BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 71941 (NOTAL)

1. WE NOTE GONSALVES STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT BIHARIS WHO HAVE OPTED FOR PAKISTAN CONSTITUTE CONSIDERABLY SMALLER NUMBER OF PERSONS THAN BENGALLEES SEEKING TO LEAVE PAKISTAN. ACCORDING BEST AVAILABLE FIGURES HERE, WOULD APPEAR GONSALVES IS IN ERROR.

2. AGAINST TOTAL OF SOME 250,000 BIHARIS WHO, ACCORDING GOI, WISH REPATRIATION TO PAKISTAN, BEST ESTIMATES HERE INDICATE THAT THERE ARE NO MORE THAN ABOUT 150,000 BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO OCTOBER 1972 ICRC CENSUS, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 160,000 BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN AT THAT TIME. SINCE THEN, SWISS EMBASSY AND ICRC CALCULATE SOME 15,000 HAVE ESCAPED. (MFA DIRGEN FOR SOUTH ASIA, ABDUL SATTAR, USED SAME FIGURE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESCAPEES IN APRIL 19 CONVERSATION WITH POL
COUNSELOR.) ACCORDING ICRC, INDIAN EMBASSY KABUL HAD
PROCESSED OVER 10,000 ESCAPEES BY END OF JANUARY 1973.

3. ICRC BREAKDOWN OF OCTOBER 1972 CENSUS FIGURES AS
FOLLOWS: MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS - 30,000;
CIVIL SERVANTS AND DEPENDENTS - 15,000; OTHERS -
115,000. (BREAKDOWN GIVEN APRIL 19 BY MFA DIRGEN
SATTAR WAS: MILITARY - 26,000; CIVIL SERVANTS -
15,000; MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE DEPENDENTS -
29,000; OTHERS - 97,000. GOP FIGURES PROBABLY BASED
LARGELY ON ICRC ESTIMATES.

4. EVEN WITH FAIRLY WIDE MARGIN FOR ERROR, FOREGOING
INDICATES NUMBER OF POTENTIAL BENGALEE REPATRIATES FAR
FEWER THAN NUMBER OF BIHARIS WISHING MIGRATE TO PAKISTAN.
THUS EVEN ONE- TO- ONE SWAP WOULD LEAVE THOUSANDS OF
BIHARIS UNACCOMMODATED.
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KABUL
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LAHORE
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SECSTATE WASHDC

TEHRAN

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